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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0026
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 002299

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/13/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNSC](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON BUILDING SUPPORT FOR
GUATEMALA'S UNSC CANDIDACY

REF: A. STATE 95360

[1](#)B. KUWAIT 2067

Classified By: CDA Matthew H. Tueller for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C/NF) PolChief delivered June 13 ref A demarche seeking support for Guatemala over Venezuela for a 2006 seat on the UN Security Council to Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Organizations Department Director Ambassador Abdullah Al-Murad. Noting that NEA A/S Welch had recently raised the issue with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (ref B), PolChief stressed the importance of the issue to the U.S. and drawing from ref A, outlined why Guatemala was a better candidate for the GRULAC seat. Al-Murad informed PolChief that shortly before her arrival, he had received a phone call and diplomatic note from the Venezuelan Ambassador to Kuwait complaining of the U.S. "campaign against Venezuela" and seeking GOK support. Al-Murad said he told the Ambassador that the GOK had not yet made its decision, and confided in PolChief that this was "not 100% true," commenting that Kuwait shared U.S. concerns about Venezuela's approach to "radical regimes." He added that when it's time to vote on UNSC members, he will be the one to "push the button." (Note: Al-Murad will depart Kuwait in mid-July to succeed Nabila Al-Mulla as Kuwait's UN PermRep. End note.)

[1](#)2. (C/NF) Al-Murad then spoke at length about the GOK's disappointment in the Chavez government. He explained that historically, Kuwait and Venezuela have had very close relations stemming from Venezuela's support during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In 1992, Venezuela was the first stop in the southern hemisphere made by late Amir Shaykh Jaber. Al-Murad was Kuwait's first Ambassador to Venezuela and Kuwaitis maintained warm feelings for Venezuelans despite the government's economic and political positions. Noting that Venezuela has already served four times on the UNSC, he rhetorically questioned why other GRULAC members -- specifically Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, and Mexico -- have not stood up for Guatemala arguing there were "more than one Chavez and one Castro in the region."

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